

Politeness Strategies for the Speech Acts of Indonesian Language Education Students in Pidie Regency

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Abstract. This study aims to describe the strategy of politeness in speech acts of final semester students of Indonesian Language Education at Pidie. This research focuses on the strategies of politeness speech acts used by the final semester students of Indonesian Language Education in Pidie Regency in communicating. This research was conducted with a qualitative approach. This research is a type of field research. The research was carried out in six stages: (1) making and distributing data source information instruments, (2) classifying the results of data collection as a reference for data collection, (3) recording student conversations when communicating freely in public places (4) transcribing data obtained by recording, (5) analyze and describe the research results carefully, (6) calculate the percentage of occurrence of each type of speech act politeness strategy used by students in communicating. The results showed that the final semester students of Indonesian Language Education in Pidie Regency used three of the four speech act politeness strategies, namely the type without a strategy, the type of positive politeness strategy, and the type of negative politeness strategy.

Keyword: Politeness, Speech acts, Students, Pidie Regency

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1 Introduction

Local language and culture play a significant role in language politeness in Indonesia to form a positive character. Based on linguistic facts, polite use of Indonesian is influenced by regional language entities and culture [1]. So, something that is considered polite by certain cultures is not necessarily considered polite by other cultures. This is because the language used is determined by context. The pragmatics examines meaning that is tied to context [2] [3].

Politeness is a fundamental thing in pragmatics because politeness is a universal phenomenon in the use of language in social contexts [4]. In general, politeness is defined as social propriety, which is an act where a person shows regular behavior and respects others in accordance with the norms prevailing in society.

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Experts widely discuss the concept of politeness in sociolinguistics. Being polite is saying something related to society correctly [5]. To be polite, a person must obey the rules that apply in every social bond [6]. A speaker will be considered impolite when he violates the applicable rules. The concept of politeness is closely related to the right and wrong elements of a person's attitude as measured by a tool called rules.

This study wanted to determine the readiness of the final semester students regarding the application of polite communication as a provision to educate. Final semester students are students who have studied politeness academically (in the Pragmatics course). They already know the scope, types of politeness, strategies, and deviations from the politeness principle of speech acts. Because they have passed these courses, an action evaluation of learning outcomes is needed in direct practice in everyday life.

In a relatively short time, final semester students will apply their knowledge, becoming Indonesian language teachers. Teachers are certainly required to have polite communication because they are examples for students. Courtesy communication is the main thing.

This research examines the politeness of the student speech acts who have taken the Pragmatics course. Pragmatics courses teach politeness in speech acts as one of the learning topics. Polite speech acts are the ideal use of language in communication with speech partners from various ethnic groups and nations.

This paper focuses on the strategy of speech act politeness used by final semester students in communicating. Strategies for the politeness of speech acts are strategies used by someone in speaking politely to optimize communication goals and avoid attitudes that impact communication in the form of threats to the comfort of speakers and their partners.

Four politeness strategies can be used in speech acts, namely (1) without strategy, (2) indirect or disguised politeness strategies, (3) positive politeness strategies for intimacy, and (4) negative politeness strategies.

2 Literature Review

The term speech acts was first introduced by Austin (1962). This philosopher stated that everything that humans say is an action. Austin analyzed the role of speech related to the behavior of speakers and interlocutors in communication between humans. Precise analysis of the relationship between speech and action [7].

In general, speech acts are acts of communication. Communicating means conveying certain behaviors. For example, a statement is used to convey a belief, and a request is used to convey a wish, an apology is used to convey regret, and so on. As a communication act, a speech act is

considered successful if the interlocutor can identify and understand the intentions or behavior conveyed by the speaker.

Associated with language politeness, directive speech acts are the most concrete examples of actions that threaten the face [4]. This speech act carries a burden and requires further effort from the interlocutor. For example, a speaker who asks his interlocutor's willingness to open the door is an action that threatens the face of the interlocutor because the speaker puts a burden on him to do the job of "opening the door" for the speaker.

The Big Indonesian Dictionary explains that language politeness is a variety of languages used in social situations that require polite norms [8]. The word polite means good language and good behavior. The politeness of language and behavior have a close relationship. In social life, politeness is the key to the *maslahat* of an action.

To achieve polite communication, an understanding of the ideal communication standards prevailing in society is needed. After understanding the standards of politeness, speakers can use politeness strategies in communicating. Strategy is a method used by speakers to maintain comfortable communication with speech partners. In daily communication, the way a person speaks when he meets a close friend is different from how that person speaks when he meets someone he just met. Likewise, in conveying an intention, sometimes a speaker immediately states his point. Some are conveyed figuratively. These methods are called strategies or strategies of politeness in speech acts.

All ethnic groups have their strategies in building politeness in communication. An ethnic group has a unique identity as indigenous knowledge [9]. In eastern culture, one of the strategies of language politeness is done by using pronouns according to the partner and speech conditions. In a broader context, politeness strategies can be formulated in certain ways, as suggested [4].

Identify four politeness strategies or general behavior patterns that can be applied by speakers, namely (1) Bald-on Record Strategy (no strategy), (2) Positive politeness strategy (positive politeness/familiarity strategy), (3) Negative politeness strategy (negative/formal politeness strategy), (4) Off-record politeness strategy (indirect or disguised strategy). An explanation of each of these politeness strategies will be presented in the following sections [4].

2.1 Bald on Record Strategy

With this strategy, the speakers say something clearly without hesitation. The discussion was very direct, clear, and open. The speaker does not make any efforts to minimize the threat to the comfort of the speech partner. This strategy is widely used by speakers who already know each other well, for example, between family members.

- A: "Deck, hurry up, we'll be late!" (invite with voice emphasis)
 B: "Okay, okay, ready Sis." (not angry)

2.2 Off Record Politeness Strategy

This strategy implies a certain meaning behind a speech. [10]. The sentence "Wow, I forgot to bring my wallet today." does not merely convey information of forgetfulness but intends to ask the said partner to lend him money without having to promise to pay it. Example:

- A: "I thought you would say thank you." (reminds to be thankful)
 B: "O, yes, thank you." (be thankful)

2.3 Positive Politeness Strategy

This strategy shows familiarity with the opponent who is not close to the speaker. Positive politeness depends on the quality of the partner's positive response. Speakers use strategies to glorify and give glorification. The speaker gives the impression that he has the same desires as the speech partner. Speakers and speech partners want to be treated as close people, such as group members, friends, or someone they like.

Example:

- A: "Traveling at night is self-threatening." (states something)
 B: "Yes, traveling at night is not safe." (confirming partner's statement)

2.4 Negative Politeness Strategy

Strategies that seek to save the speech partner's self-respect and maintain the speaker's freedom of movement. In this strategy, speakers acknowledge and respect the dignity of their partners. This strategy provides support to minimize the burden on speech partners, assuming the speaker is likely to burden the speech partner because he enters the speech partner's area of communication.

Example:

- A: "You believe, right?" (ensure)
 B: "Well, I believe you can work it out." (response with strategy).

3 Methodology

This research was conducted with a qualitative approach. This research is a type of field research. The research was carried out in six stages: (1) creating and distributing data collection instruments for data sources, (2) classifying the results of data collection as a reference for data collection, (3) recording student communication during free or rest hours; when in public places such as canteens and classrooms (4) transcribing oral data, (5) analyzing and describing the results of the analysis, (6) calculating the percentage of occurrence of each speech act politeness strategy.

This research was conducted in the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program, Jabal Gahfur Sigli University, and the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program. Jabal Gahfur Sigli University was chosen to represent the private university in Pidie Regency. The data source of this research is the final semester students of Indonesian Language and Literature Education, Jabal Gahfur Sigli University.

To obtain accurate data, researchers used several tools in collecting data: (1) writing tools; (2) data source data form; (3) research data retrieval form, namely a form containing participant data for each recording that must be filled in by the recorder, namely the assistant researcher, among others: recording time, recording location, participants, and the topic discussed; (4) tape recorder.

To analyze the research data, many analysis stages are needed as follows. First, the authors transcribe the oral data that has been collected. Second, the data that has been transcribed are grouped based on (1) the types of politeness in speech acts according to Rahardi's classification [11]; (2) strategies of speech act politeness based on Brown and Levinson's classification deviation from the principle of politeness in speech acts according to the classification of Leech [12]. Third, the research data were analyzed and described following the theory in accordance with the problem under study. Fourth, calculate the percentage of data resulting from reviews of each research problem which includes types of speech act politeness, speech act politeness strategies, and deviation from the principle of speech act politeness.

4 Results and Discussion

Strategies for the politeness of speech acts can be classified into four strategies. However, there are three types used by final semester students, namely:

4.1 Without a Strategy

This strategy is a way for someone to say something gambling without hesitation. The conversation was carried out very clearly, directly, and without doubting. The speaker does not make any efforts to minimize the threat of discomfort to the speech partner, including when making rejection. Many people do not dare to refuse with bad reasons [13].

This strategy is widely used by speakers who already know each other well, for example, between family members. This strategy is usually applied in conditions where the speaker and speech partner understand that facial maintenance depends on communication efficiency. The potential to threaten the comfort of speech partners is not a cause for concern, and speakers are superior to speech partners. The type without strategy has three principles, namely (1) not caring about discomfort, (2) speech partners can be shocked or embarrassed, and (3) applicative in emergencies, affirmation, and attracting attention.

The type of politeness without politeness is a low level of politeness in speech acts. Categorized without politeness strategy because it does not have politeness criteria. The type of non-politeness is divided into two conditions: (1) lack of politeness (not polite, but not polite). (2) disrespectful (as opposed to manners). Here's the explanation.

- (1) Hey, be a little polite!
Hey, be a little polite!

The speech act (1) results from the action of reprimanding. The speaker reprimands the speaker partners for being polite in communicating. The speaker aims to reprimand the other person who speaks poorly.

The speech act (1) does not use a polite intonation but a flat intonation. So, there is no indication that the speech act can be seen as polite in terms of intonation. From the text, the speech act does not have any polite criteria, nor can it be rude in current student communication. The speech acts are found in the speech act data of students and friends who are already close. Speakers in the speech act are not making their partners happy, nor are they disturbing the comfort of their partners. Speakers and speech partners do not find the action rude because their closeness makes such communication considered normal.

4.2 Positive Politeness Strategies

The research data shows that students use positive politeness strategies in communicating. This strategy shows intimacy to the interlocutor, who is not a close friend of the speaker. The speaker gives the impression that he has the same desires as the speech partner. Speakers and speech partners want to be treated as close people, such as group members, friends, or someone they like.

Positive politeness strategies are carried out because the aim is to protect the intimacy of speech partners [13]. Positive politeness has three concepts (1) speech partners are not close friends, (2) speakers are of the same fate as if they have the same desire, and (3) minimize the distance from attention. Here's the explanation.

- (2) Thank you for taking pictures of us.

Thank you for taking pictures of us. Sentence (2) results from an act of gratitude for the help that someone has given. The purpose of the speaker is to thank you for the help that has been given.

The use of the word yes in the middle of a speech act and a friendly intonation in a speech act (2) makes the speech act have a high degree of politeness. The speech acts spoken in a friendly manner are just like the speech acts of people who have just met each other. There is no impression of being pushy nor rude. Speech partners are made comfortable with what the

speakers say. The politeness of this strategy can be supported by polite nonverbal communication, such as facial expressions, hand movements, body positions, and other non-verbal forms [14].

4.3 Negative Politeness Strategies

This strategy seeks to save the negative comfort of speech partners and maintain the speaker's freedom of movement. In this strategy, the speaker acknowledges and respects the negative comfort of his partner. This strategy places speakers and speech partners alike, not biased. For example, speakers should minimize coercion on partners [15].

The negative politeness strategy outlines two basic conditions: (1) maintaining the comfort of speech partners and freedom of self in communicating. (2) the speaker's concern puts a burden on the speech partner for entering the area of communication. The data of both conditions were found in this study. Here's the explanation.

- (3) Gob ka buno geuduk, uh *punggong-punggong*
People have been sitting, their butt wears out

Text (3) explains the reason for doing something to defend oneself because the speech partner has cursed it. Speakers do this to maintain self-credibility.

This speech act illustrates the efforts to maintain the speaker's self-comfort for what he is doing and protect the speech partner. What the speaker does is something that makes them uncomfortable, so it is necessary to clarify. The speech partners did not ask for clarification, but the speakers did it for convenience. Then, speakers do not show anger or blame others for also trying to comfort the speech partner so as not to feel uncomfortable or blamed. Speakers are idealized because they have succeeded in realizing the concept of maintaining comfort for themselves and others. The speech act aims to maintain personal freedom and provide comfort to the speech partner.

5 Conclusion

Based on all stages of the research, it can be concluded that the final semester students of Indonesian Language and Literature Education in Pidie Regency have used the strategy of politeness in speech acts in carrying out their daily communication activities. Three of the four strategies of politeness act used are types without strategies, positive politeness strategies, and negative politeness strategies.

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